

7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents

**Happy new year!** A very happy new year to you all! I hope you have managed to get some rest over the Christmas holiday or enjoyed some of the time with family and friends. A number of families were affected by covid and so were not able to enjoy this time in the usual way. My youngest daughter was negative by Christmas day which was the best present we could have received! I hope that 2022 brings some positivity and better health for all of us.

**Thank you!** All the staff and I were overwhelmed by the generosity of parents' gifts at Christmas – thank you all sincerely for such kind and thoughtful presents – it is much appreciated.

**Application for a place in Reception class September 2022** – The deadline for getting all your paper work to us is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January. If you know anyone with a child due to start school in September, please check with them that they have done all the necessary paper work and application with the local authority. We don't have as many applications at this time as we normally would, so spread the word far and wide!

**Cannon Road Safety** – There are cars that need to drive in and out of Cannon Road (who have the appropriate permission) and I have received complaints from very concerned drivers that children and adults are walking into the road without looking. There will be a serious accident if we do not educate everyone and ensure they stop, look, listen and think before they walk/stand in Cannon Road.

**Punctuality** – You may have noticed the school gates are closing promptly at 9am. We still have children arriving after this time which is disruptive to the class who have already started their first lesson. Please be on time!

#### **Covid-19 update**

- There has been no change to the guidance regarding how school operates since last term and so we will continue as we have been doing with regular handwashing and open doors and windows to aid good ventilation.
- Please continue to be alert to symptoms of covid and if your child is unwell please keep them at home.
- If your child has a new cough, high temperature or loss of taste/smell, you must book a PCR test but should do a lateral flow test to get an immediate indication.
- If you are struggling to get lateral flow test kits, please email the office and I will contact the local authority to see if they can help.
- If your child is identified as a close contact of an infected person, they will need to do lateral flow tests for seven days. If your child tests positive for covid, they can return to school on day eight but only if they have a negative lateral flow test on day six and day seven and of course if they are well, with no temperature etc.

**Assemblies** – We joined Fr Mehall online for Mass in our separate classes on Thursday to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. On Friday we didn't have our usual awards assembly and instead I told the story of the fourth wise man, Artaban. He spent his life searching for Jesus to give his gift of precious stones. When Artaban eventually found Jesus he had no gifts left, but Jesus told him he had given his love to others by doing so many good deeds and that was all He needed. This message is an inspiration for us all.

**Choir and instrument lessons** – instrument lessons and choir all begin in the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> January.

**Kitchen Towels** – If any of you could send in a pack of kitchen towels it would be much appreciated. To keep surfaces and hands clean and to avoid spreading the virus, we use kitchen towels to dry hands and clean tables, so we go through a lot every day. Thank you in anticipation of your usual generosity.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards  
Kate Baptiste  
Headteacher